# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Officer Involved Shooting

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Report Date:		Bureau/Station	/Facility:					Admin, In	west 2	7	Hit?	7
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			1	ncident	Informati	on						
URN: 01	5-0541	5-0560-052		Date:		05/05	/15	Tin	ne: 	1243	hours	
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☐ Park ☐ Parking Lot		Clear	•	Star				Two Person	on Unit			
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Other:	D	istance:		1	icle Pursuit			Routine P	atrol			
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PSTD Use Only
SH # 2378885

### Officer Involved Shooting

JRN:

015-05415-0560-052

Page 2 of 5

Shoulder

Wrist

(SH) (WR)

			F	Collout Information					
Arrival Date	05/05/15	Arrival Time 15	05 hours	Date Submitted		Date of Recommendation			
Employee #	Last Name		Harph	am	First Name	Richard		M.I.	J.
Employee #	Last Name		Smelt	zer	First Name	Chad		M.I.	E.
Employee #	Last Name		Godw	vin	First Name	Brian		M.I.	D.
			Shooti	ing / Force Inforn	nation				
Method					Туре	of Injury	Body	Part In	jured
(BI) Bate (BF) Bod (CN) Can (CR) Cho (CT) Cor (TT) Cor (TT) Cor (TG) Che (OC) Che (TG) Che (EX) Exp (FH) Fire (FR) Fire (FO) Fire (FO) Fire (FB) Flar	on:(Control) on:(Impact) fily Fluids		Other Weapon Personal Wea Personal Wea Personal Wea Personal Wea Resistance Restraint Dev Restraint Dev Restraint Dev Restraint Dev Restraint Dev	n: Blunt Object n: Other apon: Feet/Leg: (Kick) apon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep) apon (Hand/Arm) apon (Push) apon (Other) rice (Capture Net) rice (Handcuffs) rice:Hobble (Legs Only) rice:REACT Belt	(AB) (BR) (BU) (CP) (CO) (DH) (DI) (DB) (FR) (GS) (HB) (LC) (ND) (OD) (PA) (PW) (SD)	Abrasion Bruise Burn Complaint of Pain Concussion Death Dislocation Dog Bite Fractures Gunshot Human Bite Lacerations Nerve Damage Organ Damage Paralysis Puncture Wound Soft Tissue Damage Sprain/Twists Unconscious	(A)	Abdome Ankle Arm Back Buttock Chest Elbow Face Feet Fingers Genital Groin Hand Hip Internal Knees Leg Neck	s

(OE)	Other Weapon: Edged		(UC) Un	cooperativ	e
Branc	1	(IV)	Iver Johnson	(RO)	Rossi
(AK)	AK-47	(JE)	Jennings	(SW)	Smith & Wesson
(BN)	Benelli	(LO)	Lorcin	(SR)	Sturm Ruger
(BR)	Beretta	(LU)	Luger	(SS)	SIG Sauer
(BW)	Browning	(MA)	Marlin	(ST)	Sterling
(CH)	Charter Arms	(MO)	Mossberg	(TA)	Taurus
(CO)	Colt	(NC)	NCI aka SKS	(WE)	Weatherby
(DA)	Davis Industries	(NA)	North American	(WN)	Winchester
(GL)	Glock	(NO)	Norinco	(US)	US Government
(HA)	Harrington & Richardson	(RA)	Raven	(YY)	Handmade (Inmate)
(HI)	Hi Standard	(RM)	Remington	(XX)	Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(HK)	H&K	(RG)	RG	(ZZ)	Other Brand
(IT)	Ithica	(RI)	RGI		

(NI	N) NONE				
	liber				
(9)	9 mm	(24)	.243 caliber	(41)	.410 guage
10)	10 mm	(25)	.25 caliber	(44)	.44 caliber
12)	12 guage	(30)	.308 caliber	(45)	.45 caliber
20)	20 guage	(35)	.357 caliber	(50)	50 mm
21)	.22-250	(36)	30-60 caliber	(SL)	Slug
22)	.22 caliber	(38)	.38 caliber	(WW)	Other calibe
10) 12) 20) 21) 22) 23)	.223 caliber	(40)	.40 caliber		

Refused Med Treatment

(RM)

#### FORCE APPLIED (one code per block)

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S#1	E#1	ОВ	UNK	N/A	N	N/A	NN	NN
E#1	S#1	FH	BR	9	Y	Y	GS	CH
S#1	E#2	OB	UNK	N/A	N	N/A	NN	NN
E#2	S#1	FH	BR	9	Y	Υ	GS	СН
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								<u> </u>
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#### Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

015-05415-0560-052 URN: 3 of

Page

Involved Employee M.I. First Name Last Name Employee # Joseph Nunez E 1 Work Assignment (Unit # Module, etc.): Sex: M Unit Assignment: Rank: Unit 55 Temple Station Deputy Substance Used: ShiftType (circle only one) ShiftTime (circle only one): Intoxication/Drug Usage? Regular Overtime Off Duty ☐EM ☐PM ☑Day Coroner Case # Hospital Name Interviewed? Coroner Case? Hospital Admission? Other Factors: Duty Time (hrs Clothing (circle only one) Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: Raid Jacket w/ Vest Plain Clothes no Vest Plain Clothes w/ Vest Uniform no Vest Height Weight: Age 5'10 185 ✓ Uniform w/ Vest Raid Jacket no Vest Laser Training Date: PPC Qualification Date: Range Qualification Date: Number of Prior Directed Force: Prior Shootings Certified with Weapor Patrol Certification? Certification Unit Shootings: # Shots Caliber Weapons Fired Caliber # Shots Weapons Fired 9<sub>mm</sub> 11 Beretta Brand: Brand: M.I. First Name ast Name Field Training Officer Emp # First Name Field Training Officer Emp # ast Name M.I. First Name Last Name Employee # S. E 2 Ofelia Silva Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.) Unit 55T-1 Sex: F Unit Assignment Rank: Temple Station Deputy Substance Used: ShiftTime (circle only one) ShiftType (circle only one): Intoxication/Drug Usage? Regular Overtime Off Duty ☐ EM ☐ PM ✓ Day Coroner Case # Hospital Name: Interviewed? Coroner Case? Hospital Admission? Other Factors: Duty Time (hrs) Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: Clothing (circle only one) Plain Clothes no Vest Height: Plain Clothes w/ Vest Uniform no Vest Age: Weight: 170 5'03 Raid Jacket no Vest Uniform w/ Vest PPC Qualification Date: Laser Training Date: Range Qualification Date: Number of Prior Directed Force: Certified with Weapon Certification Unit: Prior Shootings Patrol Certification Shootings: Used? # Shots Weapons Fired Caliber # Shots Weapons Fired Caliber 9 Beretta 9<sub>mm</sub> Brand: Brand: M.I. ast Name First Name Field Training Officer Emp # First Name MΙ Field Training Officer Emp # ast Name M.I. First Name Last Name Employee # Ε Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): Unit Assignment: Rank: Sex: Race: ShiftType (circle only one): Substance Used: ShiftTime (circle only one): Intoxication/Drug Usage? Regular Overtime Off Duty ☐ EM ☐ PM ☐ Day Coroner Case # Hospital Name: Interviewed? [ Hospital Admission? Coroner Case? Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: Duty Time (hrs): Other Factors: Clothing (circle only one) Raid Jacket w/ Vest Plain Clothes no Vest Height: Plain Clothes w/ Vest Uniform no Vest Weight: Age: Uniform w/ Vest Raid Jacket no Vest Range Qualification Date: PPC Qualification Date Laser Training Date: Number of Prior Directed Force: Certified with Weapon Prior Shootings? Patrol Certification? Certification Unit: Shootings Used? Weapons Fired Weapons Fired Caliber # Shots Caliber # Shots Brand: M.I. First Name Field Training Officer Emp # Last Name First Name M.I. Field Training Officer Emp # Last Name

### Officer Involved Shooting Suspect Information

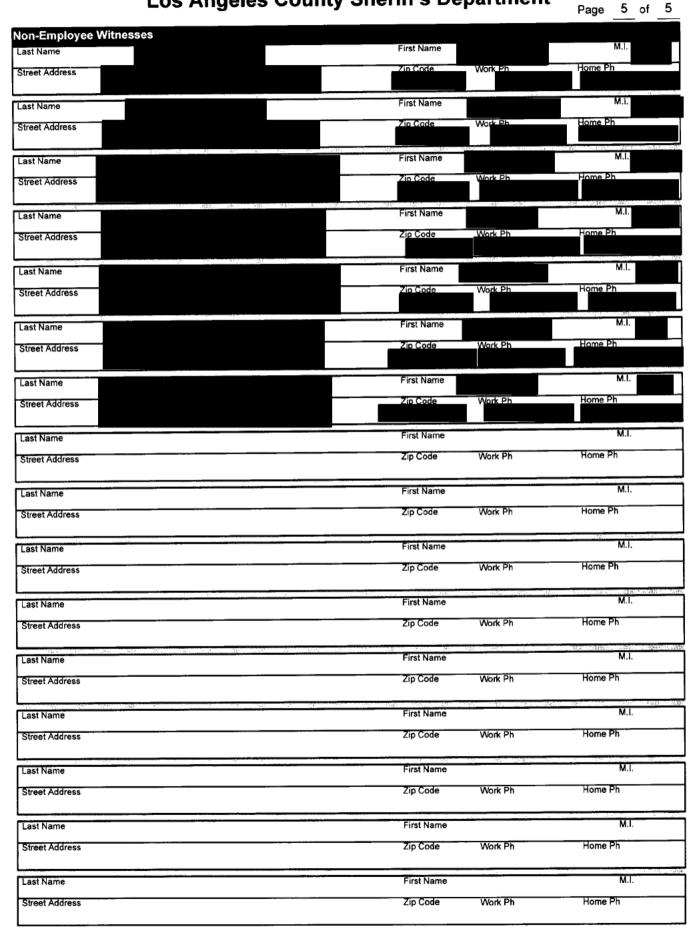
URN:

015-05415-0560-052

Page 4 of 5

		St	uspect li	nformation		
s 1	Last Name	Thong		First Name	Ма	M.I. K.
	AKA Last Name			First Name		M.I.
				Ciby		State & Zin Code
	Sex: M Race: Asian	Street Address:		City		
	Work Phone: None	Home Phone:	Social Secu	urr	Driver's Licen	
	Age: 35 D.O.B. 12/04/72	Height: 5'07 Weight: 170	FBI#		CII #	
	Booking # N/A	Primary Charge: 187(a)	PC	Secondary Charge:		
	Coroner Case?	Coroner Case # 2015-03094		Intoxication/Drug Usage?	Substance Used Mariju	ana
	Armed?	Apprehended? ✓		Mental Illness?	Criminal History? ✓	
	Vehicle Make	N/A		Model:	Year:	
s	Last Name			First Name		M.i.
Ľ—	AKA Last Name			First Name		M.I.
	Sex: Race:	Street Address:		City		State & Zip Code:
	Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Sec	curity #:	Driver's License #:	
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	Armed?	Apprehended?		Mental Illness?	Criminal History?	
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# SUPPLEMENTAL NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Deputy involved hit shooting, s	suspect deceased
	Deputy involved hit shooting, s

IAB FILE NUMBER SH 2378885

URN#: 015-05415-0560-011

DATE/TIME: May 5, 2015, 1240 hours

LOCATION: Enloe Street, South EL Monte

#### **SYNOPSIS**

On Tuesday, May 5, 2015, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) team comprised of Lieutenant Richard Harpham, Sergeants Chad Smeltzer and Brian Godwin, responded to an incident command post regarding a deputy involved hit shooting. The command post was established by Temple Station personnel. The shooting resulted in the death of Suspect Ma, Thong Kien. On July 27, 2016, the case was reassigned to IAB Sergeant Nader Chahine.

Detectives Robert Kenney and Jose Espino from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau arrived and assumed control of the homicide investigation. For further information regarding the homicide investigation refer to the homicide case book, under URN 015-05415-0560-011 **[EXHIBIT A]**.

On May 5, 2015, at approximately 1239 hours, Temple Station received a frantic "9-1-1" call [EXHIBIT C, "DVD" disc one) from Witness assault with a deadly weapon in progress at Enloe Street. Witness who sounded terrified, told the dispatcher, "I have an emergency, the Man is killing my neighbor!" He's stabbing him with the Machete!" Temple Station desk personnel generated incident number (Tag 136) and dispatched Deputies Joseph Nunez (Unit 55), Ofelia Silva (Unit 55T10), Beatriz Comparan (Unit 53), and Sergeant Ronald Miranda (Unit 50S) to respond "Code 3," to Enloe Street. Deputy Nunez was assigned as the handling unit.

Deputy Nunez acknowledged the "Code 3," call in two minutes, as he responded from Rush Street and Rosemead Boulevard, approximately 1.3 miles from Enloe Street. Prior to Deputy Nunez' arrival, he received an update on the call indicating the suspect, later identified as Thong Kien Ma, was now trying to cut off the victim's (later identified as head.

Deputy Nunez was the first unit to arrive. As Deputy Nunez turned east on Enloe Street from Central Avenue, he noticed a female Asian, later identified as Witness frantically trying to get Deputy Nunez' attention. Deputy Nunez observed Witness face and head were covered in blood. Deputy Nunez stopped his patrol vehicle just west of Enole Street, not yet aware of Suspect Ma's location.
Deputy Nunez exited his patrol vehicle and contacted Witness in the middle of the street in front of Enloe Street. Deputy Nunez was unable to understand what Witness was saying, as she was hysterically distraught and pointing south toward Enloe Street. Deputy Nunez also observed approximately 10 people standing on the north sidewalk across from Enloe Street, frantically screaming and yelling, as they were pointing toward Enloe Street.
Because of the frantic behavior of Witness and the "chaos" of the crowd, as they pointed south toward Enloe Street, Deputy Nunez believed there could be other victims. Deputy Nunez approached the front of Enloe Street with his service weapon drawn and positioned himself on the west side of the location outside the gate.
Deputy Nunez observed Suspect Ma on his knees, in the planter area in the front yard

Deputy Nunez observed Suspect Ma on his knees, in the planter area in the front yard of the house, facing northwest. Suspect Ma was holding a "Machete," (later identified as a meat cleaver) in his right hand and chopping in a downward motion toward the ground. Deputy Nunez was unable to see what Suspect Ma was striking, as the vegetation in the planter blocked his view. Deputy Nunez broadcasted via his hand held radio that he was detaining Suspect Ma at gun point, that he was armed with a "Machete," and requested responding units to deploy a "StunBag," (less lethal weapon, bean bag round) to his location. Deputy Nunez constantly ordered Suspect Ma to drop the meat cleaver, but he did not comply [See pages 10 through 13 of Deputy Nunez' Homicide transcript].

IAB Note: Deputy Nunez said the striking down with the meat cleaver by Suspect Ma sounded like he was hitting a root or rock [See page 12 of Deputy Nunez' IAB transcript].

Deputy Nunez repositioned himself near the driveway gate, east of the location and was able to see the victim, later identified as Victim on the ground in the flower bed. Suspect Ma vigorously struck the head of Victim Chu Ma Ngo with the meat cleaver approximately four to five times. Deputy Nunez continued to order Suspect Ma to drop the meat cleaver, but he did not comply. Deputy Nunez was concerned for Victim and wanted to help save Victim life. Deputy Nunez slid the driveway gate open and entered the yard. Deputy Nunez positioned himself on the passenger side of a "bluish-gray" van parked at the end of the driveway (approximately 20 to 30 yards away) behind two other vehicles [See pages 6 through 13 of Deputy Nunez' IAB transcript].

Suspect Ma stood up, turned his attention toward Deputy Nunez, and raised the meat cleaver in his right hand. Suspect Ma began charging toward Deputy Nunez, yelling, "You're going to have to kill me!" Deputy Nunez said, "I was yelling as loud as I could," for Suspect Ma to drop the meat cleaver and stop, but Suspect Ma did not comply.

Deputy Nunez, in fear for his life, fired two or three rounds from his service weapon (Beretta 9-millimeter) from a distance of approximately 20 yards. Suspect Ma appeared to have suffered gunfire wounds to his upper body, as he stopped and hunched over on one knee.

Deputy Nunez advised via radio that he had been involved in a "998," deputy- involved shooting, that Suspect Ma still possessed the "Machete" in his hand, and Victim was on the ground injured. Deputy Nunez heard Deputy Silva's voice as she arrived, taking a position slightly behind him to his right [See pages 16 through 22 of Deputy Nunez' Homicide transcript].

Deputy Nunez continued to give Suspect Ma commands to drop the meat cleaver, as Suspect Ma stood up and started aggressing toward the deputies. Suspect Ma held the meat cleaver over his head with his right hand and charged at the deputies. Fearing for their lives, both deputies simultaneously fired their firearms. Deputy Nunez fired another two or three rounds from his service weapon and Deputy Silva fired one or two rounds from her service weapon (Beretta 9-millimeter). Suspect Ma was now 10 feet 15 away from the deputies, as Suspect Ma fell forward onto his knees.

Both Deputies Nunez and Silva ordered Suspect Ma repeatedly to drop the meat cleaver and get on the ground. Suspect Ma ignored their commands and started to get up on his feet, as he stumbled toward the deputies. Suspect Ma still held the meat cleaver in his right hand moving it back and forth, as if he was going to throw the meat cleaver at the deputies. Deputies Nunez and Silva both fired their service weapons two or three times in fear for their lives and as well as the lives of the crowd of people outside. Suspect Ma fell onto his side and then rolled over on his back and stopped moving.

Deputies Nunez and Silva maintained their positions and held Suspect Ma at gunpoint. Deputy Nunez was unsure whether Suspect Ma was going to continue attacking them. Once additional units arrived, Suspect Ma was handcuffed without incident [See pages 23 through 27 of Deputy Nunez' Homicide and pages 16 through 18 of Deputy Nunez' IAB transcript].

At approximately 1255 hours, Los Angeles County Fire Engine 90 personnel responded and attempted to render first aid to Victim and Suspect Ma. Paramedic Miner pronounced Victim deceased at 1257 hours. Captain Dao pronounced Suspect Ma deceased at 1258 hours. Fire Personnel transported Witness to Greater El Monte Hospital, where she was treated for lacerations to her forehead and face.

Witness told Homicide investigators she heard a commotion outside of her house, yelling and screaming. Witness went outside and saw her husband (Victim being stabbed by Suspect Ma with a knife, in the driveway in front of her house. Witness attempted to intervene but Suspect Ma slashed her with the knife on her forehead. Witness are toward her neighbor's house and asked them to call "9-1-1" [See pages 8 through 13 of Witness Homicide transcript].

#### RADIO TRAFFIC:

1239: - 911 call (Tag 136) received

12:41:19- Call Dispatched

12:41:27- Deputy Nunez (Unit 55) acknowledged code 3 in 2 minutes

12:41:38- Deputy Silva code 3 acknowledged in 3 minutes

12:41:50- Unit 55 requested Aero

12:42:32- Unit 55 coordinated the call

12:43:10- Call updated the Suspect is trying to cut off the victims head

12:43:14- Unit 55 requested Aero (Air 7 was 10-6), Aero gave a 2 minute ETA

12:43:58- Unit 55 code 6

**12:44:03**- Unit 55 requested the duplex patch (10-33) Unit 55 broadcasted he was detaining the suspect at gun point (facing southbound), who was holding a Machete in his hand. He also asked for less lethal (StunBag), from responding units

12:44:27- Unit 55T1 advised she was seconds out

**12:44:40**- Unit 55 broadcasted the Suspect is assaulting the victim and ordered the Suspect to drop the weapon

12:44:51- Aero requested information on the call from SCC

12:44:55- SCC advised 998 and gun fire can be heard over the radio

**12:45:-** SCC asked Unit 55 his status. Unit 55 advised of 998 and Suspect still armed with the "Machete" and Victim on the ground

12:45:31- Aero advised 6 minutes out and SCC advised Fire staging

12:45:45- Fire staging at Enloe Street and Santa Anita Street

12:48- Temple Units established containment

**12:55-** The location secured and fire requested to roll-in

**12:57-** Paramedic Miner of Los Angeles County Fire Department engine 90, pronounced Victim deceased

**12:58** - Captain Dao of Los Angeles County Fire Department engine 90, pronounced Suspect Ma deceased

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau detectives documented their investigation of the incident in their Homicide Book **[EXHIBIT A]**. The Los Angeles County District attorney's Office reviewed the investigation and authored a Letter of Opinion **[EXHIBIT B]**. The letter stated Deputies Joseph Nunez and Ofelia Silva, acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others when they used deadly force against Suspect Thong Kien Ma. There would be no further action from the District Attorney.

In addition, three compact DVD's are included as [EXHIBIT C]. The DVD's contain

digital recordings of the 911 call and radio traffic. Also included are, photographs of the deputies and their weapons, crime scene photographs, autopsy reports of Victim and Suspect Thong Kien Ma, Consolidated Criminal History Report System (CCHRS), and the homicide taped interviews of the deputies and witnesses.

#### INVOLVED EMPLOYEES AND WORK HISTORY

Joseph Nunez, Deputy Sheriff, #
East Patrol Division
Temple Station

#### Work History

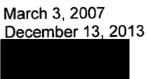
Date of Employment:

Date Assigned to Patrol/Temple Station:

Date Completed Patrol Training:

Prior Shooting Incident(s):

Prior Founded Force Incidents:



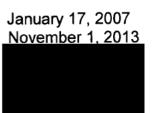
#### **Equipment Worn On Person**

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray Expandable Baton

Ofelia Silva, Deputy Sheriff, # East Patrol Division Temple Station

#### **Work History**

Date of Employment:
Date Assigned to Patrol/Temple Station:
Date Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting incident(s):
Prior Founded Force Incidents:



#### **Equipment Worn On Person**

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray Expandable Baton

#### SUSPECT INFORMATION

Ma. THONG KIEN

Male. Asian. DOB: December 4. 1982. 5'07". 170 pounds (Deceased)

#### CRIMINAL HISTORY

CII# Suspect Ma's criminal history consists of Consolidated Criminal History Report System (CCHRS) and rap sheet are included in **[EXHIBIT A]**, and the homicide book (page 133).

#### **SUSPECT Ma's INJURIES**

Suspect Ma sustained 14 gunshot wounds. They are listed and described in the autopsy report and numbered 1 through 14. #1 was a penetrating, fatal wound, to the right chest, #2 was a penetrating, fatal wound to the right abdominal, #3 was a penetrating, and potentially life threatening wound to the left upper leg. For the additional gunshot wounds (11) gunshots sustained by Suspect Ma and descriptions, refer to homicide book pages 170-191 **[EXHIBIT A].** 

#### TOXICOLOGY FINDINGS

Tests (vitreous and blood) of Suspect Ma were conducted by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office. Suspect Ma was determined to have a level of marijuana, methamphetamine, and amphetamine in his system at the time the autopsy was performed. The level of intoxication in a sample of Suspect Ma's vitreous was listed as 5.9 ng/mL (Marijuana), 0.38 ug/mL (methamphetamine), and 0.07 ug/mL (amphetamine). This was detected from a fluid sample taken from his heart, refer to **[EXHIBIT A, page 214].** 

#### **DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES**

None

#### PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

All physical evidence was located and collected by the Scientific Services Bureau. Evidence was documented by Homicide Bureau Investigators and Scientific Services Bureau personnel; refer to **[EXHIBIT A, page 115-128].** Additionally a DVD containing crime scene photographs was provided with this case **[EXIHIBIT C].** 

#### INVESTIGATORS OBSERVATIONS

The scene was described in detail by Homicide Detectives Troy Ewing and Theodor Baljet [Exhibit A, pages 115-128].

Their description of the scene was consistent with IAB Investigator's observations. The scene was also photographed by the Scientific Services Bureau.

#### WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY NUNEZ

Deputy Nunez fired 11 rounds of Department issued 9mm ammunition from his Department issued Beretta 92F, 9mm semiautomatic pistol.

The firearm was examined by Senior Criminalist April Wong of the Scientific Services Firearms Identification section and found to be functional **[EXHIBIT A, pages 124-125]**.

Date last qualified:



Deputy Silva fired nine rounds of Department issued 9mm ammunition from her Department issued Beretta Model 92F, 9mm semiautomatic pistol.

The firearm was examined by Senior Criminalist April Wong of the Scientific Services Firearms Identification section and found to be functional **[EXHIBIT A, pages 124-125]**.

Date last qualified:

#### **WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT Ma**

Suspect Ma was armed with a meat cleaver, [EXHIBIT A, page 119].

#### PROPERTY DAMAGE

Bullet impacts in the aluminum siding of the exterior east facing wall of the residence of Enloe Street.

#### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

The criminal investigation into the shooting was handled by Detectives Kenney and Espino of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's Homicide Bureau.

#### LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The scene was illuminated by daylight. The weather was clear and cool.

#### INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators interviewed the following involved Department personnel: Deputies Joseph Nunez and Ofelia Silva. The interviews were digitally recorded and transcribed. For further information and precise wording, see the attached verbatim interview transcriptions.

The following witnesses were interviewed by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Detectives:

The interviews were digitally recorded and transcribed. For more information and precise wording, see the attached verbatim interview transcriptions [EXHIBIT C].